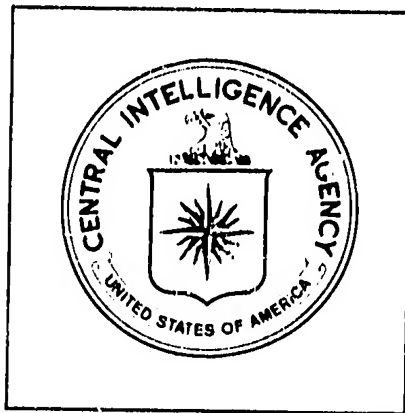


CIAOSR MD TCS 03934/75 TS/TK/SI/NF/NOCON/ORCON 1 of 1
Military Developments 4 Dec 75 TCS 3934/75

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USSR: SA-8 SAM System Displayed in Moscow

One of the highlights of the recent November 7 Moscow parade was the first public appearance of the SA-8 Gecko surface-to-air missile system. 

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Among the more significant characteristics of the SA-8 transporter-erector-launcher (TEL) are:

--two missile tracking antennas which are independently steerable, thus giving the SA-8 system the capability to launch two missiles at the same target at once;

--an amphibious capability, as suggested by its general hydrodynamic appearance and a trim vane on the forward top slope of the TEL;



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--a whip antenna on the front of the TEL
for voice communications;

--a TV tracker atop the target tracking
radar.

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[REDACTED]

There is a slight difference between the two types of TELs shown in the parade. On one type of TEL, the front hatch above the driver's compartment is hinged on the left side. On this version there are trapezoidal boxes on both sides of the front top of the vehicle plus side windows around the driver's compartment. On the other version of the TEL, the hatch is hinged in the rear, there are no trapezoidal boxes, no side windows, and the TV tracker is slightly longer than that on the other version.

Further examination of parade photography may reveal additional technical characteristics of the system, although its role can be assessed now. There is tentative evidence that Soviet divisions will receive either the SA-8 or SA-6, but not both. Subordinated to divisions, the SA-8 Gecko is expected to perform in a short-range air defense role with ground force units.

[REDACTED]

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After a slow development cycle spanning some ten years, the Soviets introduced this system to an operational unit in late 1974. There are now three operational SA-8 regiments, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Deployment with Soviet units in Eastern Europe is likely in 1976 or 1977. [REDACTED]

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SOMALIA: Soviet Drydock Arrives

A Soviet floating drydock arrived in Berbera on 1 December after being towed from the Black Sea by two tugs and an icebreaker. The 8,500 ton dock probably will remain in Somalia, although there is an outside chance that it is being transferred to Vladivostok and that the ships have merely stopped off at Berbera to take on fuel and supplies. Aden, South Yemen, is the usual stop for Soviet tugs transiting the area.

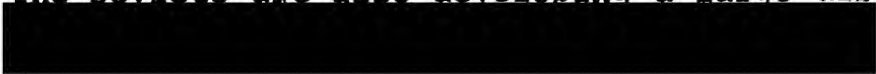
If the dock remains in Berbera, its size would indicate that it is intended only for Soviet use. It could handle any of the Soviet submarines that have operated in the area as well as Soviet surface ships up to the size of Kresta II guided missile cruisers. Somalia has no ships of comparable size. Soviet naval ships have been able to operate in the Indian Ocean for as long as a year but have not had access to repair facilities other than a repair ship. The opportunity for occasional dry-docking at Berbera would facilitate longer, more efficient operations--particularly of diesel submarines--and, in an emergency, would enable the Soviets to make more extensive repairs to their ships and submarines.

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The expanded repair capability at Berbera would be a logical addition to the Soviet naval missile facility, housing area, and communications station already there. The Soviets are also developing a large airfield nearby.



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